

Another turn of the wheels of justice

The souls of martyrs can now rest in peace

SQ Choudhury and Ali Ahsan Mojahed have got their comeuppance. And we express our satisfaction at the conclusion of the process of justice for which the nation has been waiting for the last 44 years. The government, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in particular, deserves the nation's thanks for this. This is an important step towards the establishment of rule of law and ending the culture of impunity in this country.

With the carrying out of the penalty awarded to the two most reviled perpetrators of crimes against humanity, a dark chapter in our history has been closed. Not only did they never express any remorse at their dastardly acts, they even had the impudence to state that what they did was right. Our unmitigated sorrow is that the country had to endure the pain of seeing these two adorn the position of ministers. We hope we have been able to redeem, in some measure at least, a debt of gratitude we owed to the three million martyrs and innumerable mothers and sisters who faced ignominy at the hands of the occupying Pak army.

Those who accuse that justice has not been done are either doing so out of lack of full understanding of the system or doing it deliberately. Let us assert that no legal process has been more transparent and fair than the ICT. The accused have not only the benefit of appeal to the Supreme Court but also to seek review of the judgement from the Apex court.

Let the trial, judgment and verdict be a lesson to all that crimes committed against humanity will not go unpunished whoever the perpetrators may be, and that the law will catch up with them eventually.

A world united against terror

Address the root causes

We unequivocally welcome the unanimous adoption of a UN Security Council resolution urging the world to unite to defeat IS. The move follows the recent ghastly terrorist attacks in Beirut, Paris and Mali that left close to two hundred civilians dead and the rest of the world shocked and helpless.

Although it had been a long time coming, the resolution is a significant development, with Russia and China on board, both permanent members with veto powers, historically opposing any resolution that could be seen as interfering with the internal affairs of a country. Therefore, upholding the sovereignty of nations, it was crafted in a way to give states added political and diplomatic teeth to eliminate ISIS and called for sanctions and enhanced cooperation to cut off the flow of foreign fighters to Iraq and Syria. In another development in this part of the world, the Malaysian premier opened a fresh round of summity by railing against the very ideology behind extremism.

Terrorism is borderless and faceless. That's why participation of all countries is necessary to combat it. Addressing it calls for moral clarity and not just aerial bombardment of "safe havens" which, oftentimes, results in casualties of innocent civilians. Time has come for all countries to take a hard look at the root causes of terrorism and find pragmatic and lasting solutions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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A tactical approach for playing T20 cricket

It is evident that the Tigers have not yet understood the strategy of playing T20 cricket. It is not just about slogging every ball whether it is playable or not, it is all about playing proper cricketing shots, building an innings, running fast to take singles, 2 or even 3 runs whenever possible instead of standing in one place to hit a boundary or a six. The secret of T20 is to retain as many wickets as possible right up to the 15th over and then launching an attack during the last 5 overs. Many batsmen make the mistake of hitting big shots during the power play of the first 6 overs. They must realise that during this time, the pitch is new and that's the time to get used to the wicket. I personally don't believe it is a good time to start slogging the ball until and unless the batsmen become used to the playing conditions.

As far as bowling is concerned, the sole reason for losing the 2nd T20 match against Zimbabwe was the 'no-ball' from Mustafizur which was the turning point of the match. No-balls and wides can be extremely expensive and bowlers cannot afford to bowl these extras during a 20 over match. The last 5 overs must be bowled by pacers only. It was a mistake to let Nasir bowl the last over. The last over should have been bowled by Mustafizur. Nasir should use his abilities and bowl a mixture of both spin and pace during his over to confuse the batsman. I believe this way he will get more wickets.

Aminur Rahim
New DOHS, Mohakhali
Dhaka

Pledges of Paris climate summit

MACRO MIRROR

FAHMIDA KHATUN

PARIS was preparing for November 30, not November 13. Both dates reflect threats of two different natures to the human civilisation. Both have similar origins. They are the creations of

developed nations manifested in two different forms. But victims are innocent people in both cases. The horrific attacks in Paris have left the people of France and of the world shaken. World leaders vowed afresh to address the imminent and real danger of terrorism. Life, however, moves on. Amid grief and sorrow, Paris is set to host the 21st Conference of Parties (COP 21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) during November 30 - December 11. The decision of the French government to ban protests and marches has, of course, upset activists joining the summit from all over the world in thousands.

Since the establishment of the UNFCCC in 1992, the Paris climate conference is going to be one of the most important events of the organisation as it will have to take a few crucial decisions on tackling climate change. Global negotiations on reducing emission levels by developed countries have seen very little progress so far as countries disagreed among themselves on the level of reduction. So the adoption of a climate agreement has remained a far-fetched objective. Paris negotiations will have to deliver two major outcomes: develop a strategy to

limit global temperature to no more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and adapt to climate change by countries affected by the impact of climate change.

Discussions on slowing down carbon emissions have all along been chaotic as bigger emitters have been unable to agree with one another. Many of them have expressed their Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) plan for emission reduction. China, the US and India are responsible for 44 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions. In November 2014, China, the biggest emitter, pledged to cap its carbon emission by 2030 or even earlier. The second largest emitter, the US, also committed to bring its emission down by 26 to 28 percent below that of the 2005 level by 2025. To achieve these commitments, China will make investments on clean energies, and the US has to double its efforts towards reducing carbon emission during the 2020-2025 timeframe. The European Union has pledged an emission reduction of 40 percent by 2030. India has announced that it will reduce emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 percent, from the 2005 level, by 2030.

While developed and developing countries have to commit on emission reductions, least developed countries such as Bangladesh look forward to adaptation measures. In 2009, at the Copenhagen COP15, countries made commitments to mobilise \$100 billion annually by 2020 to finance mitigation and adaptation to climate change. This was reinforced at COP16 in Cancun the following year. However, this is only a small fraction of actual requirements. India will need at least \$2.5 trillion to meet its climate change actions between now and 2030. China will have to invest \$315 to \$630 billion for five years in its

green sector. According to the Global Commission of the Economy and Climate Change (2014), during the next 15 years about \$6 trillion will have to be spent globally on infrastructure. However, the landscape of climate finance looks rather grim as the progress in mobilising climate fund has been slow. The Organisation for Economic

Understandably, a significant amount will be required by poor countries as they are the most vulnerable to climate change. Additionally, they are also engulfed with environmental problems such as pollution and resource degradation which make their development unsustainable.

Cooperation and Development indicates that during 2013-14, on average only \$57 billion per annum was mobilised.

Understandably, a significant amount will be required by poor countries as they are the most vulnerable to climate change. Additionally, they are also engulfed with environmental problems such as pollution and resource degradation which make their development unsustainable. These countries will need resources for adapting to the impact of climate change. And the cost of adaptation to the impact of climate change on these

countries could be huge. Worse, these costs will multiply a few hundred times if adaptation measures are delayed. Estimates show that the cost of adaptation can be as high as \$400 billion per year within a span of 20 to 30 years. In case of South Asia, total cost for adaptation may range from \$10 to about \$8 billion annually.

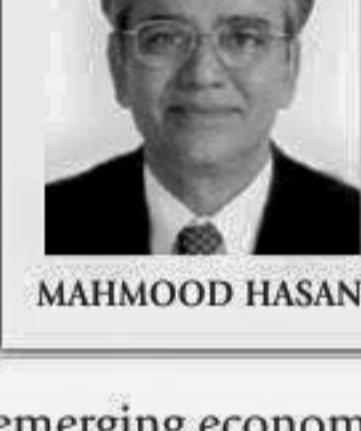
In the end, the success of Paris climate summit lies in the agreement on funding. A major concern is whether these funds will be new and additional and whether they will be easily accessible to poor countries. There are also worries regarding commitment and actual disbursement of funds. Moreover, climate funds are structurally biased towards mitigation than adaptation which is a need of the poor and vulnerable countries. While pledges on cutting down emission remain largely unfulfilled, the allocation pattern of climate fund is clearly a reflection of uneven distribution pattern of climate change related resources. Commitments are lacking also in case of transfer and diffusion of technology which is one of the pillars of the UNFCCC. While the issue of technology transfer is being negotiated at the World Trade Organisation under Article 66.2 of the agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights, promises at the COP21 should be reinvigorated.

By making a legally binding treaty for emission reductions and adaptation, countries can make the Paris climate summit a turning point where the real journey of tackling climate change begins. The world awaits that historic moment.

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G20 Summit overshadowed by Paris attacks

FROM A BYSTANDER


MAHMOOD HASAN

TURKISH President Tayyip Erdogan hosted the tenth G20 Summit in Antalya from November 15-16, 2015. It was a gathering of leaders of 20 advanced and emerging economies of the world representing 85 percent of global GDP and 75 percent of world trade. The primary focus of the forum was to deliberate on global economic and financial cooperation.

It was held in the backdrop of several terrorist attacks in France and the Middle East - the attack in 6 different locations in Paris on November 13 causing 129 deaths; an earlier bomb blast in Ankara on October 10 that killed 100 people; the Russian plane brought down by a bomb in Sinai on October 31 that killed 224 passengers; and the Beirut bomb blast on November 12 that claimed 43 lives.

The agenda of this Summit was strengthening global recovery and lifting potential; enhancing resilience; and buttressing sustainability. The 27-paragraph final Communiqué speaks about the three pillars around which the agenda was adopted. They are implementation of past commitments; boosting investment as a driver of growth and inclusiveness of G20 actions so that the benefits of growth are shared by all.

On strengthening the recovery and lifting the potential the Communiqué pledged to use all their policy tools to tackle uneven economic growth. The leaders have committed to lift collective GDP by an additional 2 percent by 2018. The Group reiterated that WTO is the backbone of the multilateral trading system and should play the central role in promoting economic growth and development.

To enhance resilience the Group shall take a number of steps to enhance stability of financial system. The Group vowed to remain intolerant towards corruption. The Communiqué speaks about a package of measures to tackle corporate tax avoidance, particularly

loopholes that multinational exploit. And to buttress sustainability the Group has committed to ensuring contributions for inclusive and sustainable growth in low income countries. The leaders are dedicated to Agenda 2030 to implement SDGs "to eradicate poverty and build an inclusive and sustainable future for all".

However, there have been criticisms over the inability of G20 to halt the recessionary tendencies overtaking the global economy. Growth has fallen below predictions in China, Japan, EU, the US and poor countries, primarily because of weak demand leading to contraction of world trade. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has revised

her Argentinean colleague President Cristina Kirchner is faced with an economic meltdown. Russia remains in recession because of Western sanctions.

The other disappointment with the Communiqué was its weak message on boosting renewable energy, climate change or ending fossil fuel subsidies. The leaders did commit to limit temperature rise to 2°C but did not indicate how hundreds of billions of dollars would be raised for the 'Green Climate Fund'. The Climate Change Conference (COP 21) is scheduled to be held in Paris from November 30 - December 11, 2015.

The Summit most significantly released a 9-paragraph statement strongly condemning the attack in Paris.



US President Barack Obama (R) and Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) talk before the second working session at the G20 Summit on November 16, 2015

downward its forecast on global growth recently.

Some of the participating leaders have trouble back home. Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the meeting as the Chinese economy shows signs of slowing down. With oil prices below \$50 per barrel Saudi King Salman will have to remain content with lower revenues. Japan's Shinzo Abe is facing deflationary pressure. His Abenomics has failed to stimulate the stagnated Japanese economy. President Dilma Rousseff of Brazil is faced with runaway inflation and deepening recession, while

offering condolences to the victims and their families. The leaders agreed to cut off channels of funding terrorist organisations, step up aviation security and impose strict border controls to stop terrorist movements. The Summit recognised its obligations under the UN Charter and obligations under

international law related to human rights, refugees and humanitarian law in preventing and suppressing terrorist acts. The statement, curiously, refrained from mentioning ISIS by name, though ISIS has claimed responsibility for all attacks and President Hollande has also accused

ISIS for the massacre in Paris.

Naturally, apart from formal deliberations, non-agenda discussions on terrorism dominated the Summit, particularly the attacks on Paris. ISIS has transformed into a global security threat and has triggered unprecedented migration of people from the Middle East to Europe. Leaders, particularly President Obama, President Erdogan, PM David Cameron and others were preoccupied on how to deal with ISIS.

What was significant was the intense discussion between Obama and Putin on the sidelines of the meeting. Terrorist attacks perpetrated by ISIS have driven these two opposing leaders to close ranks to defeat ISIS. Both the leaders vowed to eliminate ISIS. President Obama, addressing the press conference, however, has categorically rejected the idea of deploying US forces in Syria.

President Putin, who was ostracised by the West because of Moscow's intervention in Ukraine, is now an important interlocutor of the West. Both Washington and Moscow want to destroy ISIS. However, their differences on the fate of Bashar al-Assad remain.

French President Francois Hollande skipped the Summit to deal with the emergency proclaimed in France following the massacre. "France is at war... Our response to ISIS must be merciless... but it must also be strategic so we don't fall into their trap," declared Hollande. Hollande has announced that he will travel to Washington and Moscow to speak to Obama and Putin to develop strategies on how to defeat ISIS.

The Communiqué contains clichés and jargon that is seen in documents issued after such international colloquy. The Communiqué was, in fact, a public relations exercise which hid the scale of the global economic malaise.

By hosting the Summit, Erdogan has projected that Turkey is not only important regionally but a bridge between the East and the West. But how far the Summit decisions will improve the global economy remains to be seen.

The writer is former Ambassador and Secretary.

COMMENTS

"Death, no less" (November 19, 2015)

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Anonymous

They deserve no less than that.

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Jafor

The government should remain alert so that the

Jamaat-Shibir miscreants cannot carry out 'activities' in the name of protest.

"Italian doctor comes under gun attack" (November 19, 2015)

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Kabir Ahmed

Thank God, he is still alive.

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Amina Begum

This man came to Bangladesh three decades ago to serve the poor people of this

country. And these brainwashed culprits have shot this selfless man. Shame on them!

"Sudden shutdown follows verdict" (November 19, 2015)

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Valerie

A sudden shutdown like this is so bizarre!

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Momin

It's true that it's bizarre, but sometimes it is necessary for security reasons. Otherwise the Jamaat-Shibir miscreants can instigate their followers within a very short time and carry out subversive activities.